

UNAPPROVED
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
July 23, 2007

TIME The meeting convened at 6:50 P.M.

PRESENT Chair Lord-Hausman, Vice-Chair Moore and Commissioners Berger, Fort, Hakanson, Kirola, Robinson and Kreitz.

ABSENT None.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting were approved with the following correction: Commissioner Kirola stated that the word Board should be changed to Commission throughout the minutes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduction of New Commission Members (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Chair Lord-Hausman introduced and welcomed new Commissioner's John Robinson and Roberta Kreitz.

2. Revision of Rehabilitation Program Guidelines to Include Accessibility Modifications Grants for Homeowners and Renters (staff):

Miriam Delagrange, Development Manager from the Development Services Department, gave a presentation regarding a change in the existing accessibility modification program. The City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) would provide all funding and the tenant would have to meet the income guidelines. The total program budget is for \$50,000 (see Attachment A for key points of program).

Commissioner Hakanson asked if staff is working with Access California? Miriam responded no, but took the information down.

Commissioner Berger asked if Gallagher and Lindsey were included in this program? Miriam responded that Gallagher and Lindsey is not involved, as their preference is to develop their own programs.

Commissioner Berger asked if funding was available to restore units back to pre-modification standards? Miriam responded that no funding is available for that type of work.

Commissioner Longley-Cook stated that if pre-modification funding were available, it would be more of an incentive for property owners to participate in the program.

Commissioner Hakanson also suggested that the Rent Review Advisory Board be consulted in this pilot program.

Vice-Chair Moore asked what is the incentive of the overall program? Miriam responded that it is free to the homeowner and the rent is low.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked how is this information being communicated to landlords? Miriam indicated that a press release is in the works, which will be forwarded to local landlords. Vice-Chair Moore also suggested including the Regional Communication Center.

Commissioner Kreitz suggested forwarding this information to the Board of Realtors.

Vice-Chair Moore asked how many have signed on to the program? Miriam responded only one, as it just started. Commissioner Hakanson asked if there is a designated list of contractors to perform the accessibility modifications? Miriam responded, yes.

Miriam concluded the presentation and thanked the Commissioners for their input.

3. **Blanding Avenue Accessibility Items (Chair Lord-Hausman):**

Chair Lord-Hausman expressed access concern on Blanding Street, specifically between Blanding and Park Street, along the south side, as there is no sidewalk for pedestrian access and cars are parked along that path. Chair Lord-Hausman has passed this information to the ADA Coordinator (Secretary Akil) to address within the update of the ADA Transition Plan. Commissioner Berger asked if there was a penalty that could be imposed on the cars parking along the pedestrian path? Chair Lord-Hausman responded that the APD violation is \$15 to \$20. Commissioner Longley-Cook stated that APD should be notified about the illegal parking. Chair Lord-Hausman agreed with the suggestion.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss Final Changes Regarding the Start Time of Board Meetings (Chair Lord-Hausman/Secretary Akil):

Secretary Akil distributed the amended version of the Commission's By-laws to reflect the new meeting start time of 6:30 P.M. It was also mentioned that the meeting ending time was changed to 8:30 P.M. as the meetings are to last no longer than two hours unless an extension was motioned and voted on by the Commissioners. The Commission accepted these changes.

2. Commission on Disability Internet Link (Chair Lord-Hausman/Secretary Akil):

Chair Lord-Hausman and Secretary Akil informed the Commission that they had a met with Leon King, Interim IT Director, regarding the addition of an accessibility link onto the City's website. Mr. King presented an outline of what an accessibility website would include and provided an estimate of a minimum cost of \$3,000 to get the site up and running. Chair Lord-Hausman suggested that some of the design work for the website could be completed by outside help at a less expensive rate, in lieu of the City contracted consultant. Mr. King agreed that was a viable option, especially since the Commission does not have a budget with the City. Chair Lord-Hausman inquired if the website could be maintained by staff in order to decrease maintenance cost, to which Mr. King replied it can be managed in-house. Chair Lord-Hausman and Secretary Akil agreed to follow up with Mr. King after reviewing what alternatives could be achieved in order to reduce cost and would schedule a follow up meeting. Commissioner Hakanson provided the Chair with other possible links. Vice-Chair Moore responded that the accessibility link is extremely important and needs to happen. Chair Lord-Hausman agreed and requested that each Commissioner provide their top three choices for inclusion onto the accessibility link, for consideration.

3. Transportation Element for General Plan Amendment California Environmental Quality Act Review (staff):

There were no additional comments received from the Commission concerning the draft Transportation Element. Commissioner Longley-Cook's comments were previously forwarded to PW staff by Chair Lord-Hausman.

4. Disability Awareness Month (Vice Chair Moore):

Vice-Chair Moore stated that the Commission will have to seek City Council approval in order to designate a location for the tree planting. Chair Lord-Hausman suggested that this issue be

addressed through the Public Works Department (PW) and directed Vice-Chair Moore to contact Ed Sommerauer in PW. Commissioner Berger stated that up to three trees can be purchased for \$10 from the Arbor Group. Commissioner Berger also asked if anyone had contacted the Miracle Baseball League in order to possibly plant a tree? Chair Lord-Hausman responded that she would follow up with Roberta Rockwell from the League.

5. PAPCO (Chair Lord-Hausman):

This item is continued to the August meeting. Previously, Chair Lord-Hausman stated that Barry Bergman of the Public Works Department confirmed that they have identified a possible representative to participate on the PAPCO Commission. She will follow up to confirm that has been done.

6. Commissioner Duties (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Chair Lord-Hausman encouraged the Commission to look out for other Board packets regarding information on disability issues as it affects the community.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

1. Commission Budget

At the May meeting, the Commission inquired as to whether or not a budget exists for minor expenditures for activities. Secretary Akil contacted Ed Sommerauer, former Secretary, regarding past budget practices and Juelle Ann Boyer, Chief Finance Officer, to determine what, if any, budgets exist for other Boards and Commissions. Mr. Sommerauer indicated that there has never been a budget set aside for the Commission on Disability Issues and Ms. Boyer indicated that none of the City's Volunteer Boards or Commissions are funded, unless specifically earmarked by the Department that oversees it. Commissioner Kreitz asked if it would be appropriate for the Board to seek grants. Chair Lord-Hausman responded that it may pose a conflict and Secretary Akil stated that the Commission would be responsible for accounting for those funds, not the City of Alameda or its staff.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. San Francisco Mayor's Superfest:

Commissioner Hakanson distributed information regarding the SF Mayor's Superfest. Chair Lord-Hausman requested information continue to be shared with the Commission of this upcoming event.

2. Lower Washington Park:

Commissioner Longley-Cook distributed information regarding accessibility issues concerning Washington Park. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she will invite Dale Lillard, Recreation and Park Director, to the September meeting.

3. Gallagher and Lindsey:

Commissioner Berger shared information from Gallagher and Lindsey regarding free home repairs for senior and physically disadvantaged people in Alameda.

4. City Sponsored Events:

Vice-Chair Moore suggested that more attention should be given to families with individuals who have special needs or accessibility concerns during City sponsored events, such as Crab Cove Concerts. Greater visibility should also be made throughout the City to encourage families with disabled children to be included in these events. Chair Lord-Hausman responded that it will be up to the Commission to bring the awareness to the various groups and organizations.

5. Local Accessibility Issues:

Santa Clara/Oak Street Barricades

Chair Lord-Hausman discussed the Santa Clara and Oak Street barricades that were adjusted to address any visually impaired or wheelchair bound individuals.

Farmers Market (Webster Street)

The Chair acknowledged that the Webster Street Business Association (WABA) was responsive to her request to designate temporary parking spaces for disabled individuals for all future Farmer's Market events on the West end of town.

6. Future Agenda Items:

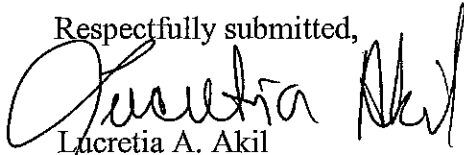
The Commission agreed to agendize the following items for future discussion:

- Brown Act Training – August
- Lower Washington Park Accessibility Issues (invite Dale Lillard, Director) - September
- AC Transit Access Issues (invite Susan Decker, Alameda Transit Advocates and Elsa Ortiz, AC Transit Board of Directors) – October

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, August 27, 2007, 6:30 P.M. in Room 360 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucretia A. Akil
Commission Secretary

CDI July 23, 2007 Minutes

Key Points of Accessibility Modification Program

WHAT IS THE ALAMEDA ACCESSIBILITY MODIFICATION PROGRAM?

The City of Alameda Development Services Department (DSD) assists eligible persons with disabilities in making modifications to their residence, allowing the individual to attain greater mobility and remain safely in their home. Alameda Accessibility Modification Program (AAMP) focuses on the person's most immediate needs as they relate to improving safety and accessibility.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for AAMP assistance, the following conditions must be met:

- The applicant is an Alameda resident.
- The applicant's annual household income must not exceed 80% of the median income for the Oakland Area, as established by the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development.
- The property to be modified is the applicant's primary residence.
- A physician or health care provider verifies the applicant's physical disabilities.
- If rental property, the applicant's landlord must provide written agreement allowing the modifications.
- Funding is for one-time use only and may be used primarily for renovations that make the inside of the rental property more accessible to the renter.
- Occupants are allowed a maximum of \$5,000 for repairs and modifications. Any additional funds required may be provided by a low-interest secured loan tailored to the individual project.

WHAT MODIFICATIONS ARE ALLOWED?

Examples of housing modifications allowed by AAMP include:

- Installation of bathroom grab-bars, roll-in showers or raised toilet fixtures
- Construction of wheelchair ramps
- Widening doorways
- Walkway construction
- Hearing Assistance devices for doorbells, telephone ringers or smoke detectors (strobe indicators)

HOW AAMP WORKS

AAMP applicants apply directly to DSD. Staff review applications for program eligibility and certify that the applicant's household income meets program guidelines. The applicant's physician or other social service professional must submit a Third-Party Verification form certifying a medical need exists before work may start. However, the specific nature or severity of the individual's disability is not to be revealed.

PROGRAM PROVIDES:

- Construction management and inspections
- Preparation of detailed work specifications
- Housing and building codes compliance
- Cost estimating & competitive bid procurement processes
- Management of job contracts and contractors

OTHER INFORMATION

The Contractor selected by the Grantee must complete the Contractor Terms & Conditions and be a cost-reasonable bidder. The Contractor's work must be guaranteed for one year from the date of approved completion. Contact DSD staff at 749-5814 for information or an application.